

Torrance Elementary PTA Oldest, One of Largest

One of the largest in membership and the oldest in years, Torrance Elementary PTA has won a remarkable record in its continuing good relationship between homes and school. From a small membership when organized 30 years ago (1923), this PTA in 1939 had increased its membership to 235. Now in 1953, the roster includes 323 members.

R. E. Moffitt, president; Mrs. Charles Mullen, first vice-president; D. Boone Kirks, second vice-president; Mesdames Henry F. Heinlein, third vice-president and ways and means chairman; William Coburn, fourth vice-president, and room chairman; William Montgomery, recording secretary; Lloyd Davis, corresponding secretary; Leo Christian, treasurer; W. B. Gresson, historian; and George Crabtree, auditor registrar.

During the depression years of the '30's, this PTA made child welfare its primary object, serving many free lunches and giving clothing, shoes, and milk to juveniles in needy families. Sixteen life memberships to the organization have been granted since 1935.

Past presidents of Torrance Elementary PTA who still reside in this city are Mesdames Frances Clark, Mina Shilder, William Laven, M. J. Edwards, Ray Smith, W. H. Tolson, W. E. Bowen, Irene Perry, Don Wolfe, Elmer Moon, K. Beight, M. B. Miller and H. E. Carr.

Because of the very large membership, the association expects record turnouts at future meetings.

Torrance Memorial Hospital Gets Boost from Association, Auxiliary

The Torrance Hospital Association was incorporated by Jared Sidney Torrance, founder of the city, in 1920, when he founded a trust fund for the benefit of a hospital he intended to build for the community.

Unfortunately, he died very suddenly in 1921 before the hospital could be built, and a codicil to his will incorporating a grant of \$100,000 to the institution that had been made less than 30 days before his death, was not legal or binding under California law.

However, through the foresight and generosity of his heirs, the trust fund was established. His widow, Mrs. Helena C. Torrance, his brother and sister, his nephew and nieces, all beneficiaries under the will, went ahead to build the hospital at a cost of \$125,000.

The Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial Hospital, located at 1425 Engracia Ave., opened with 63 beds in 1926 and was turned over to the Torrance Hospital Association, the non-profit membership corporation set up by Torrance under the trust fund.

Terms of this agreement called for the Association to be operated by a Board of Directors consisting of four businessmen, three women, and two physicians. Serving on the board at the present time are R. R. Smith, president; O. A. Kresse, vice-president; Dr. John Beeman, treasurer; Donald Findley, secretary; Dr. W. G. Butt, J. W. Post, Miss Esther Maxwell, Mrs. Charles A. Curtis, and Mrs. N. F. Jamieson.

The hospital now has a 63-bed capacity, thanks to efforts of the Association, which also has added many other improvements by placing a maternity ward on the property. Although the group does not solicit any assistance of contributions from the community, local residents, through an event staged annually by the woman's Auxiliary, has greatly aided the hospital's growth.

The Auxiliary, formed in September, 1951, stages a Valentine Ball each February for the benefit of the hospital.

The 1952 Ball brought in hundreds of dollars which were used to purchase a diathermy unit and cubicle curtains for the institution. This year's event raised over \$1500, part of which went for remaining cubicle curtains and the bulk for the construction of a new maternity wing, which will be built on ground next to the First Christian Church. The women hope to raise additional funds for the new building at the 1954 Ball, slated for Feb. 13. An additional \$1000 for the new wing has been contributed by Harrey Machine Co.

Mrs. John Melville, president, is directing Auxiliary work during 1953-54, with the assistance of Mesdames John Beeman, first vice-president; Frederic Ewens, second vice-president; Ernest Butt, third vice-president; Gerald Eastham, recording secretary; George Andersen, corresponding secretary; Howard Wood, treasurer; Henry V. Uphold Jr., and Miss Esther Maxwell, directors.

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Optimist Club Boys' Friend

Three Torrance men meeting in the office of Realtor Jerry Altman one evening in 1948 got the ball rolling here to organize a local chapter of Optimist International. Today five years later, the club has 27 members and is actively putting life in the service club's international motto, "Friend of the Boy."

Meeting five years ago with Altman was A. C. Turner, of Mayfair Creamery; and High School Coach Clifford Graybehl. Graybehl had become acquainted with the work of Optimists while he was a swimming instructor at the San Pedro YMCA.

With the help of Dr. E. C. Spires, San Pedro Optimist and former governor of the 14th District of Optimist International, the three men interested more Torrance business and professional men in the club's work and a chapter was formed here.

Charter president of the group was Attorney Boris Woolley, who is still active in the club. Sixth president of the group is Chr's Sorenson, of 1681 Madrid Ave., whose term of office runs until next spring. Other club presidents have included Delbert G. Vaughn, Vern Lovelady, Dr. Allen Fyessit, and Forrest Meyers—all still active in the club.

Other club officers this year include C. A. Woodcock, first vice-president; and E. V. Winkler, president; Reid Bundy, second haier, secretary-treasurer. Ken Jordan is chairman of the boys' work committee, the chief program of the club.

In the club's effort to live up to its motto, "Friend of the Boy," it sponsors the "Torrance Sea Scout unit with Dr. Joe Bay as skipper.

Other boys' work activities include financial support of the Optimist Home for Boys in Los Angeles where about 60 homeless boys, mostly wards of the court, are given permanent homes and schooling. The club sponsors other boys' activities such as softball teams, and once each year stages the Grammar School Relays at the Torrance High School stadium. These relays draw several hundred of the top athletes from the city's elementary schools in a day-long round of racing and other track events. Ribbons are given the winners.

The Optimists meet each Monday evening at 7 p.m. at the Ding How Cafe, Cabrillo and Carson St.

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